

# City of Costa Mesa Police Department

## Memorandum



DATE: May 04, 2022

TO: Bryan Wadkins, Lieutenant  
Jason Minter, Recreation Department Director

FROM: Matthew Andersen, Park Ranger

RE: **FAIRVIEW PARK MONTHLY REPORT – April 2022**

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- Park Rangers Staffing: There are six full-time Park Rangers, with four currently patrolling Fairview Park regularly during their shifts (one Park Ranger temporarily assigned to Telecommunications & one out on industrial leave). Park Ranger coverage throughout the City is every day, 6am to 10:30pm.
- Park Ranger Andersen has taken the lead on addressing concerns at Fairview Park. He generally patrols Fairview Park 4 to 5 hours each day during his shift, Wednesday – Saturday, 6am to 4:30pm.
- 172 public safety events were reported at Fairview Park (2500 and 2501 Placentia Ave.) in April. Police events may or may not result in a police report, citation, and/or arrest.
  - 165 self-initiated patrol checks by Officers and Park Rangers.
  - Custodial Arrests were made, or citations were issued, for the following offenses:
    - Arson
    - Disobey Posted Sign; Off Trail
    - Unlawful Camping
    - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
  - 7 Incidents
    - City of Costa Mesa Contractor Kent Nerhus, who operates a drone, which conducts aerial surveillance of the lower park, generated 4-calls for service related to seeing persons off trail via his drone. Two of these incidents led to finding two, different persons off trail within prohibited areas. These persons were cited for violations of the Municipal Code. The other 2 calls did not result in any persons being found off trail, or in finding unlawful encampments.
    - A person driving on Placentia Avenue reported seeing a male transient setting vegetation located in the park on fire. Responding Patrol Officers located this person. He was arrested for committing arson, as well as possessing drug paraphernalia.
    - A park patron reported seeing a male acting suspiciously by the restroom. The responding Park Ranger located this male, who stated he had used Fentanyl 6-hours prior, was not in need of medical assistance, and desired to return to his

encampment, which was located within the City of Santa Ana. Since there were no law violations observed, the Park Ranger stood-by until this male departed from the park.

- A person driving on Placentia Avenue reported seeing 10-juveniles throwing fireworks onto passing vehicle from the atop of the suspension bridge. The responding Patrol Officers conducted an area search, and did not locate the juveniles. No damage was reported by any motorist.
- Park Rangers and City Maintenance crews are addressing illegal camping in the Wetlands area on a periodic basis. Because of ongoing collaborative efforts, camping has been remediated and Park Rangers continue to monitor this concern. One site was addressed during the month of April.
- As encampments have been cleared from the Wetlands portion of the park, CMPD Park Rangers have teamed up with OC Park Rangers to address any new encampments occurring within Talbert Park North, Talbert Park South, and along Costa Mesa's area of the Santa Ana River Bike Trail. One encampment was addressed.
- Outreach services have been offered to all impacted persons experiencing homelessness through the City of Costa Mesa's Outreach team. One person requested a bed at the City's Bridge Shelter, however; upon his day of induction, he did not make his appointment to meet with a City Outreach Worker, and he was not located within his encampment located in Talbert Park.